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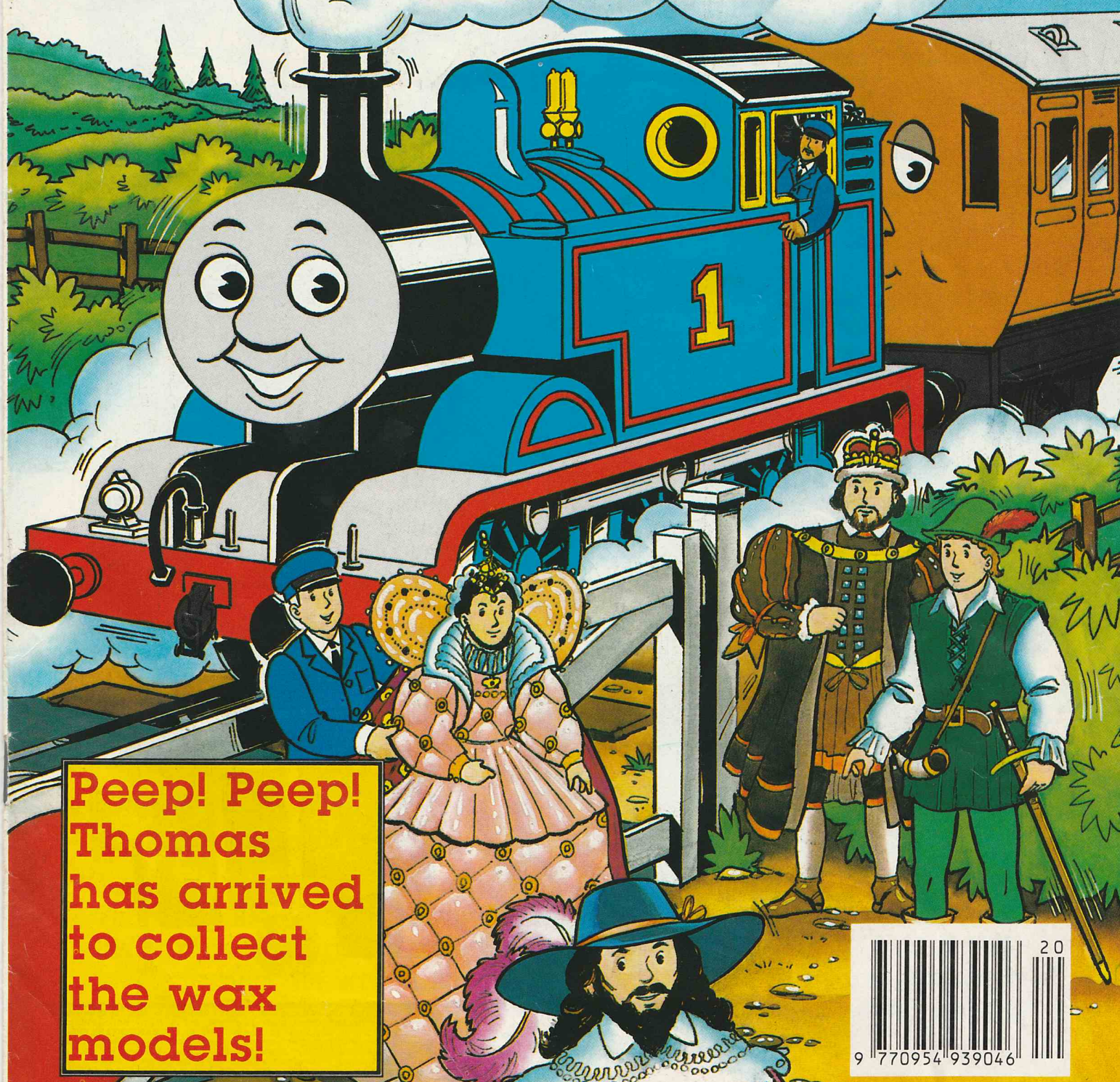
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Peep! Peep! Thomas has arrived to collect the wax models!

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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine is a very busy engine when he works along his branch line. He has to collect many passengers when he is pulling his coaches, Annie and Clarabel. In the story that begins on page 3, Thomas is asked to collect some very unusual passengers indeed! In our second story, Terence puts out a fire! Peep! Peep!

SPECIAL COMPETITION!

Don't miss our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, for your chance to win a superb selection of prizes, courtesy of *Spearmark International*. Prizes will include a **Thomas Bedroom Set**, an **Analogue Watch** and an **Alarm Clock!**

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THOMAS TOKEN

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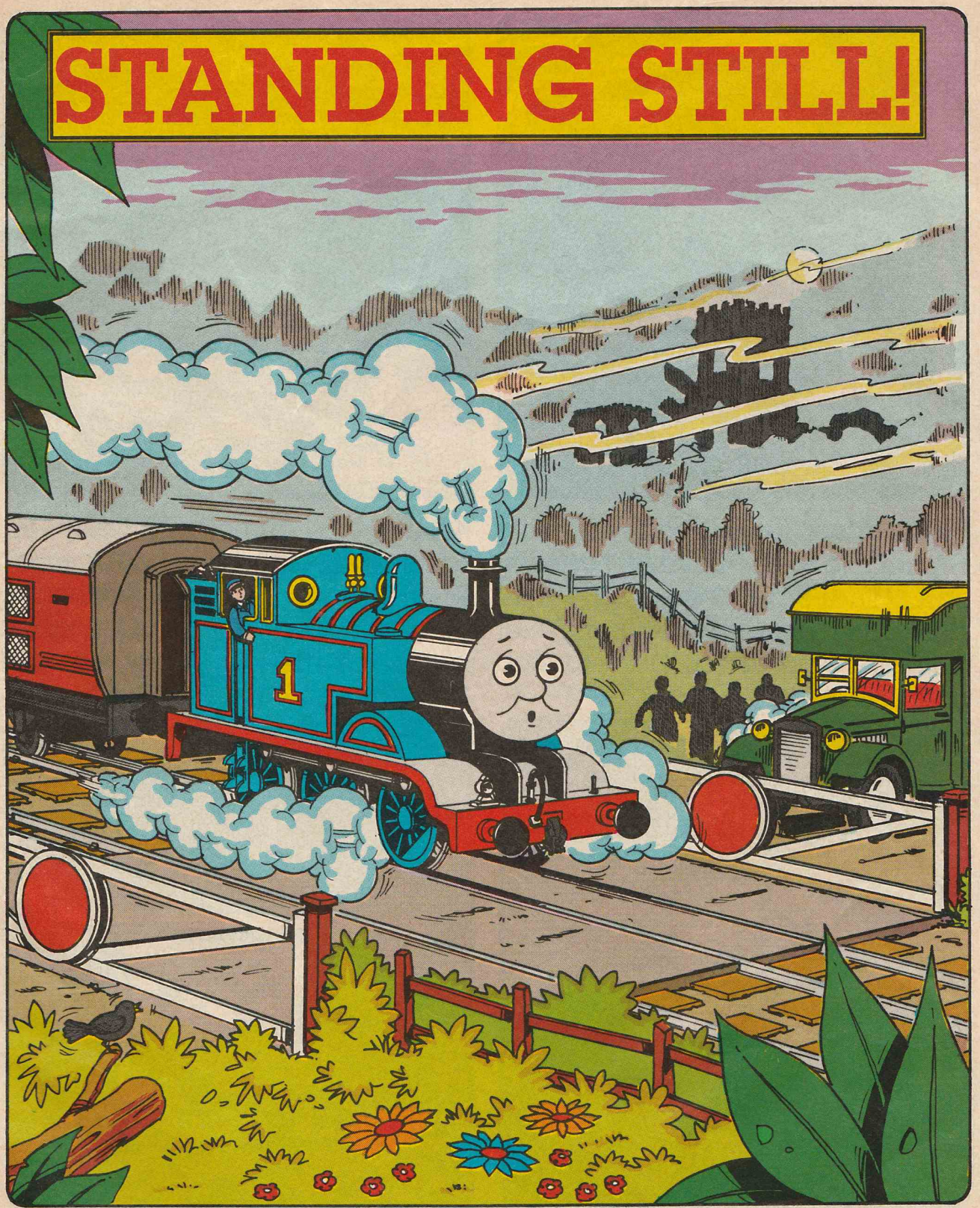
STANDING STILL!



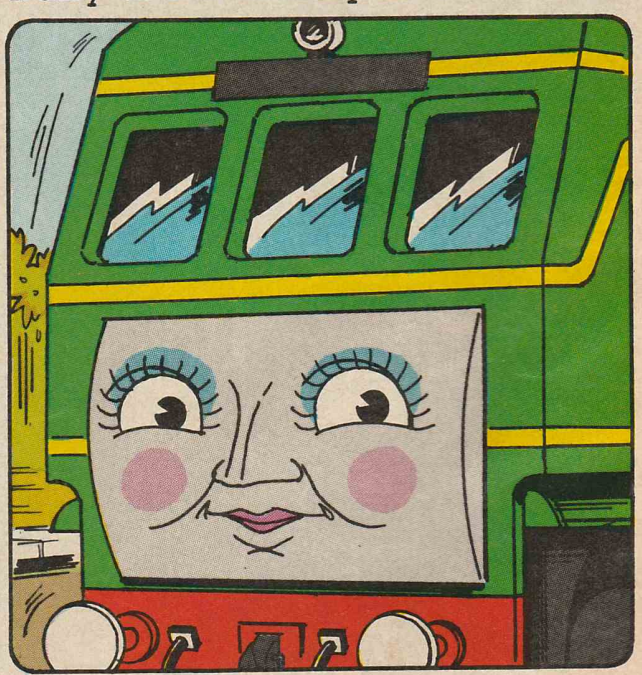
1. It was a misty morning as Thomas pulled the post train along his branch line. When he neared a level-crossing, he saw a lorry was parked close by. Some people were standing beside it.

2. Thomas steamed past them. The rush of air blew some of their hats off. "Peep! Peep! Sorry!" whistled Thomas, but the people did not move. Thomas was very puzzled.

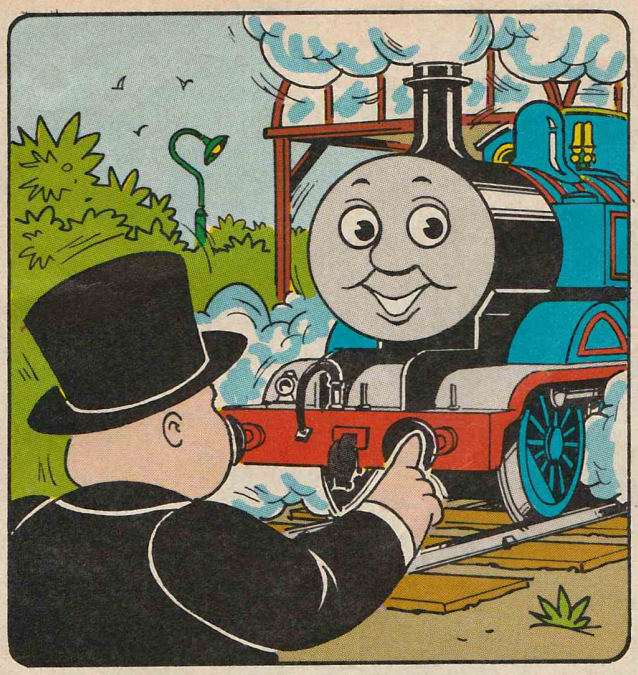
3. His driver looked back and saw the people were standing perfectly still. "That's odd!" he said. "Why don't they pick up their hats?" But Thomas was far too busy to stop and find out.

4. Later on that morning, Daisy was taking passengers along Thomas's branch line. She arrived at the level-crossing and saw the same people by the lorry. They watched Daisy as she rolled past them.

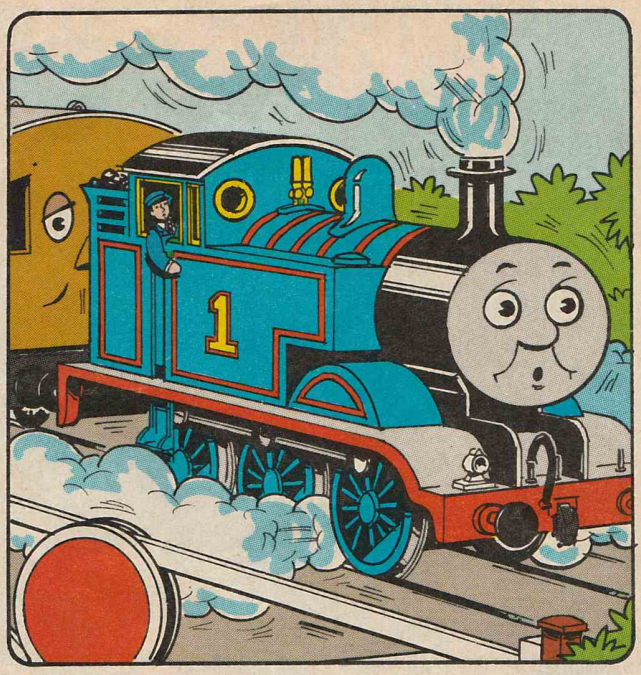
5. Farther up the line, she pulled into a station beside Thomas. His guard was loading up sacks of post for Thomas to deliver to the sorting office at Wellsworth.



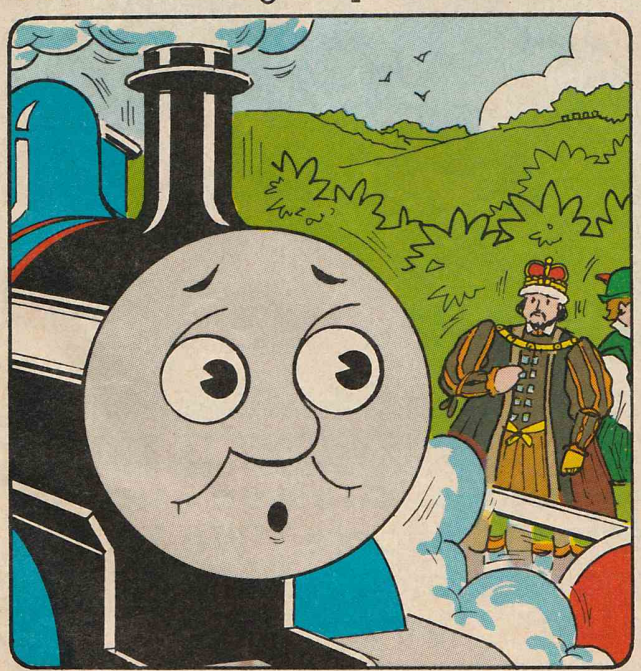
6. Daisy told Thomas about the people at the level-crossing. "No wonder they stood and stared at me!" she sniffed importantly. "I'm such a thoroughly modern Diesel railcar!"



7. When Thomas returned to the Main Station, the Fat Controller was waiting to speak to him. "I have an urgent task for you, Thomas!" he said. "A lorry has broken down by a level-crossing on your line!"



8. Thomas was asked to collect the lorry's load and take it to the station at Elsbridge. Thomas was coupled to Annie, then he steamed on his way. Before long, Thomas arrived at the level-crossing.



9. "That's the same lorry we saw earlier!" thought Thomas. Now there was another person standing near it. "Gracious!" gasped Thomas. The figure was wearing a cloak and a crown.

10. "It looks like a king!" cried his driver. "Good morning, your majesty!" said Thomas politely but the king did not answer. He stood with the other people completely still.

11. Just then, two men climbed down from the back of the lorry. They were carrying figures who were wearing costumes. "These wax dummies are due at the new waxworks to be opened today by the mayor!" one man told Thomas's driver. "They must be delivered immediately!""That's why they stood so still, Thomas! They aren't real people!" said Thomas's driver.

12. Thomas's driver explained that a waxworks is full of dummies dressed up as famous people. "We had to pick up their hats for them, after you went by earlier,"laughed the lorry driver. Thomas waited while the dummies were put aboard Annie. "Daisy will be disappointed they weren't admiring her, after all!" he thought.

THE END!

In our next issue: Bertie's burst tyres!

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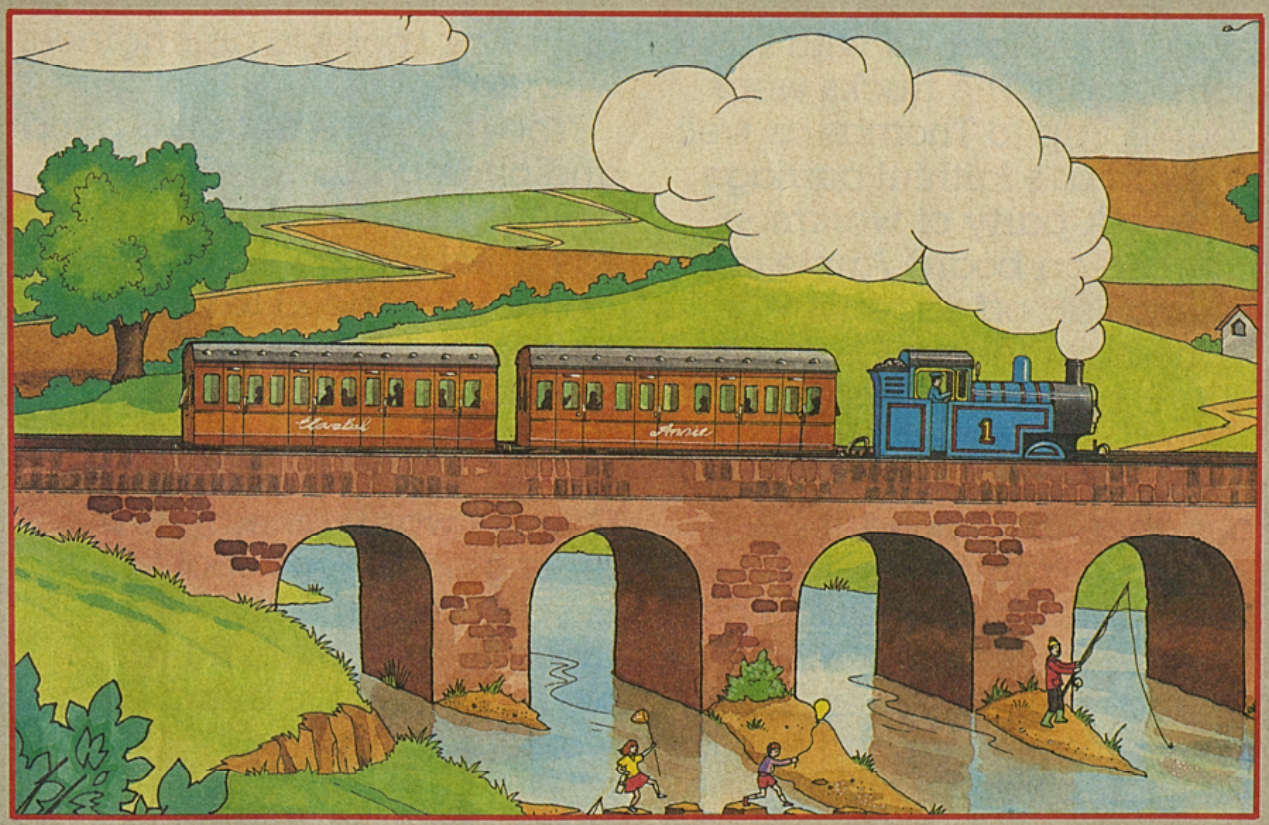
EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



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(Tick boxes where appropriate)

THE NEW LINE!

The engineers were building a new line on the Fat Controller's railway. Thomas was very busy indeed as he helped to carry workmen and their equipment to the site of the new track.

One morning, Thomas's trucks were loaded with sections of rail. The trucks were coupled up to Thomas as well as Thomas's faithful carriage, Annie. A party of workmen climbed on board Annie and Thomas set off eagerly.

The new line was being laid across open countryside. When Thomas arrived at the site, he saw that part of the track was beside a large pond.

"We are raising the level of the ground for the rails to go on," the Chief Engineer told Thomas's driver. "Then, if rainstorms make the pond flood, the water won't cover the track!"

As the engineers in Annie climbed down, Thomas suddenly heard a strange sound. 'Croak, croak!' The noise seemed to be coming from all around the pond.

"Puffing pistons!" gasped Thomas. "What's that?"

"Frogs!" said his driver. He pointed to lots of little green creatures hopping up the steep bank and across the new line. Thomas wondered where they were going.

His driver spoke to an engineer, who explained.

"The frogs live near the pond and often go back to it. They always follow the same path." The Chief Engineer overheard. "So the frogs need to cross the new track to reach their pond," he said. "The engines will have to go very slowly while the frogs hop out of their way!"

Thomas was worried. "How will an engine like me spot these little frogs on the line?" he thought, "and even if I did, I would never stop in time. They would get squashed!"

Thomas puffed back to the Main Station with some engineers who had finished their shifts. The engineers stepped down from Annie on to the platform. Just then, one of them shouted, "Look! A frog!" He pointed to a frog which was hopping around Annie's floor carriage.

"It must have hopped into my toolbag earlier!" said an engi-

neer. "I left it on the ground, near the pond."

The engineers chased the frog as it hopped around the carriage. They finally caught it and carefully showed it to the Fat Controller.

"Upon my word!" he cried. How unusual! Thomas, you must return it to the pond! We can't have frogs aboard Annie! What would the passengers say?"

"Begging your pardon, sir," began Thomas, "there are frogs hopping all over the new line!" His driver explained why.

The Fat Controller thought for a moment. "I will ask my Chief Engineer to build a little tunnel beneath the new line," said the Fat Controller. "The frogs can use it to cross under the track to get to their pond!"

When Thomas heard about the frogs' tunnel, he was very pleased.

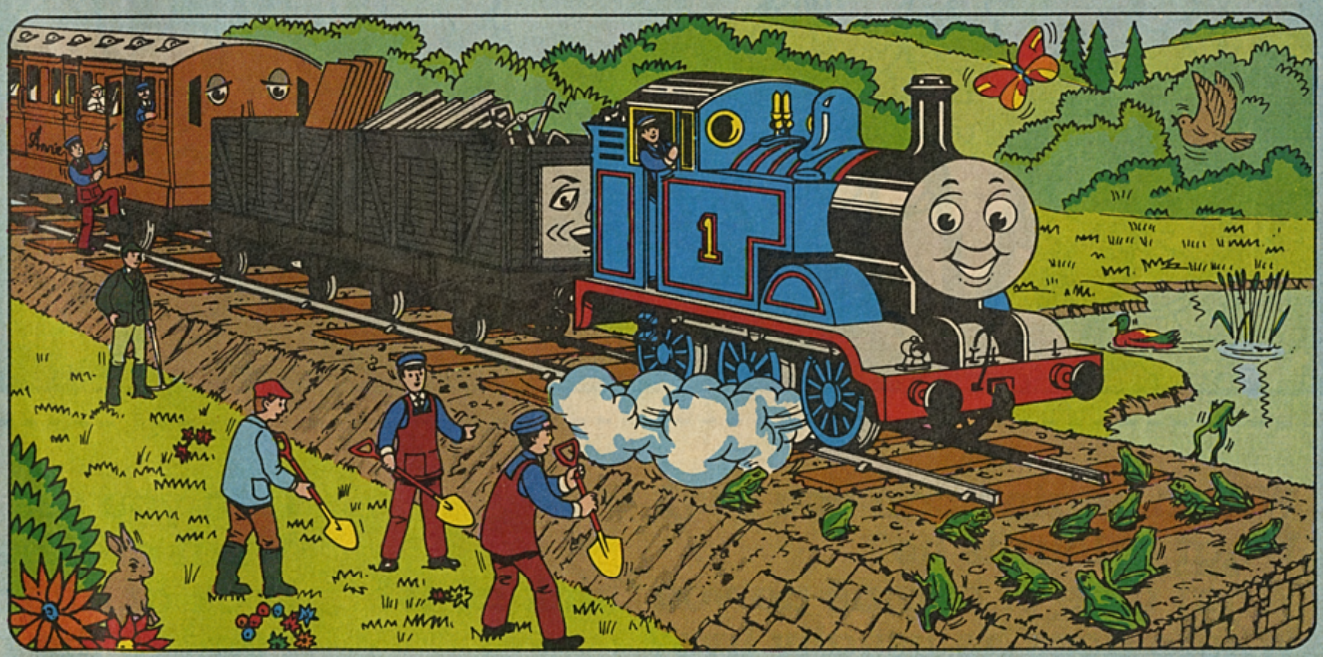
At last, the day arrived when the new line was finished. The Fat Controller chose Thomas to be the first engine to use it because he had worked so hard. On the day of the grand opening, Thomas pulled Annie and Clarabel along the new line. The carriages were full of important people, including the Mayor and the Fat Controller. From the carriage windows, the passengers could see the frog tunnel and watched some frogs hopping through to reach the pond.

"The frogs are perfectly safe now!" said the Fat Controller. "Thanks to their tunnel under the track."

"Splendid! We must protect our wildlife!" replied the Mayor.

"I like frogs!" chuckled Thomas," especially the one that hopped into Annie!"

THE END!



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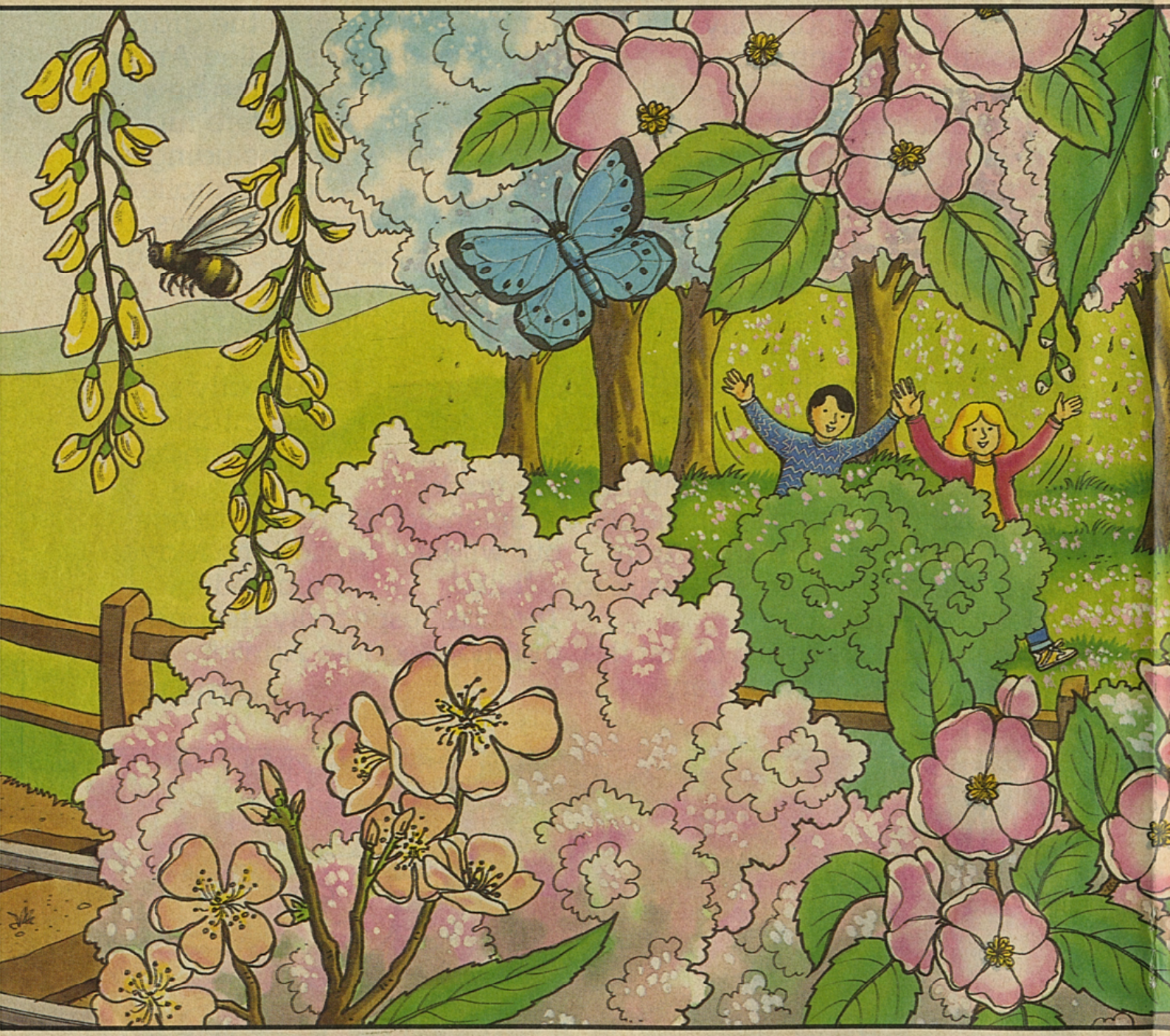
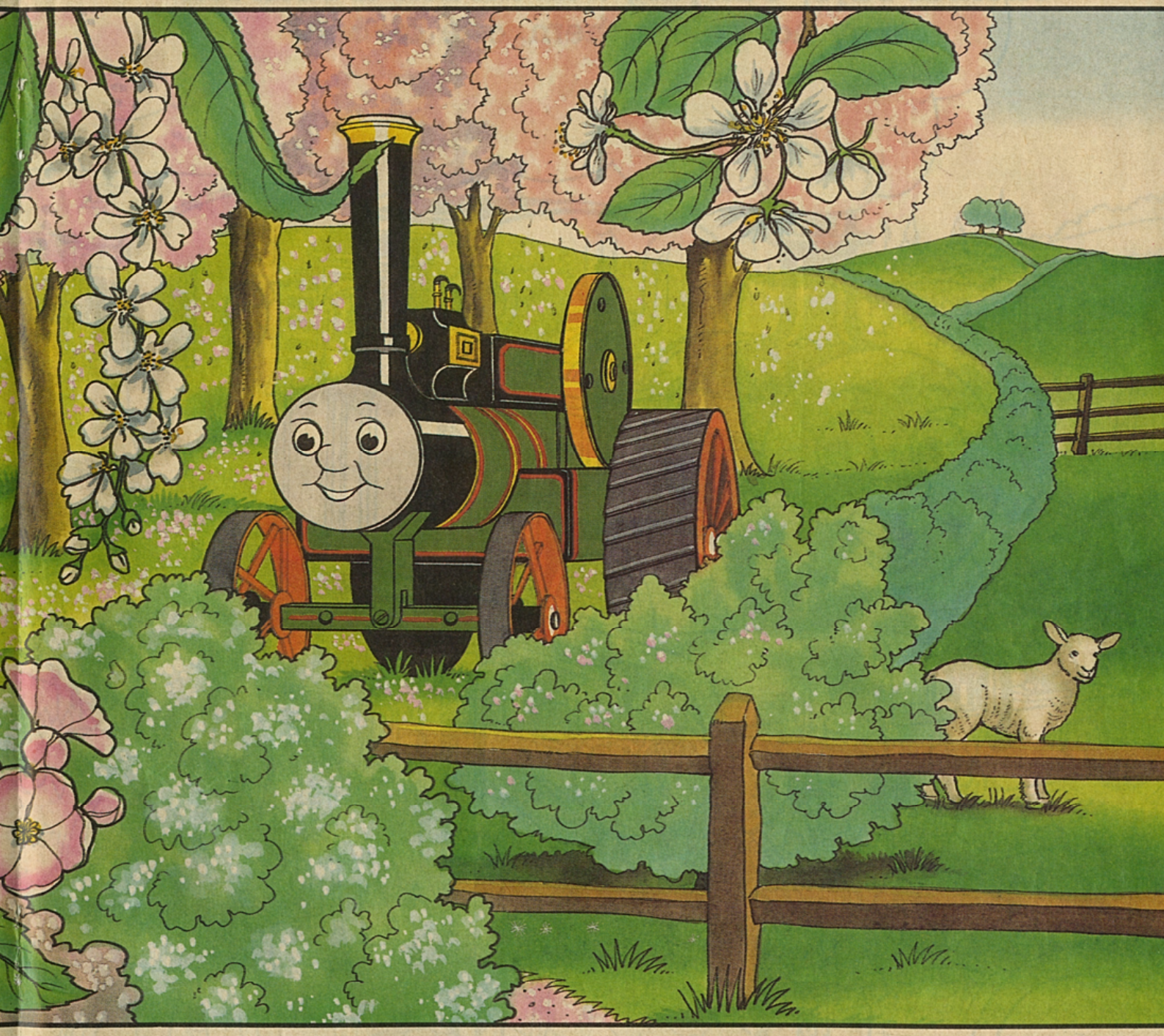


Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What type of engine do you think he is?
Where does he usually live?

Can you see the Fa
What are their nam
Look at all the diffe
Point to the big but

time!



Fat Controller's grandchildren?
ames?
fferent flowers!
utterfly!

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: At the farm!

COLOURING TIME!

Thomas says,"Carrying wax models is such fun."
Why not colour them, one by one!

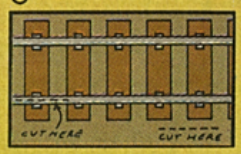
JOIN THE DOTS!

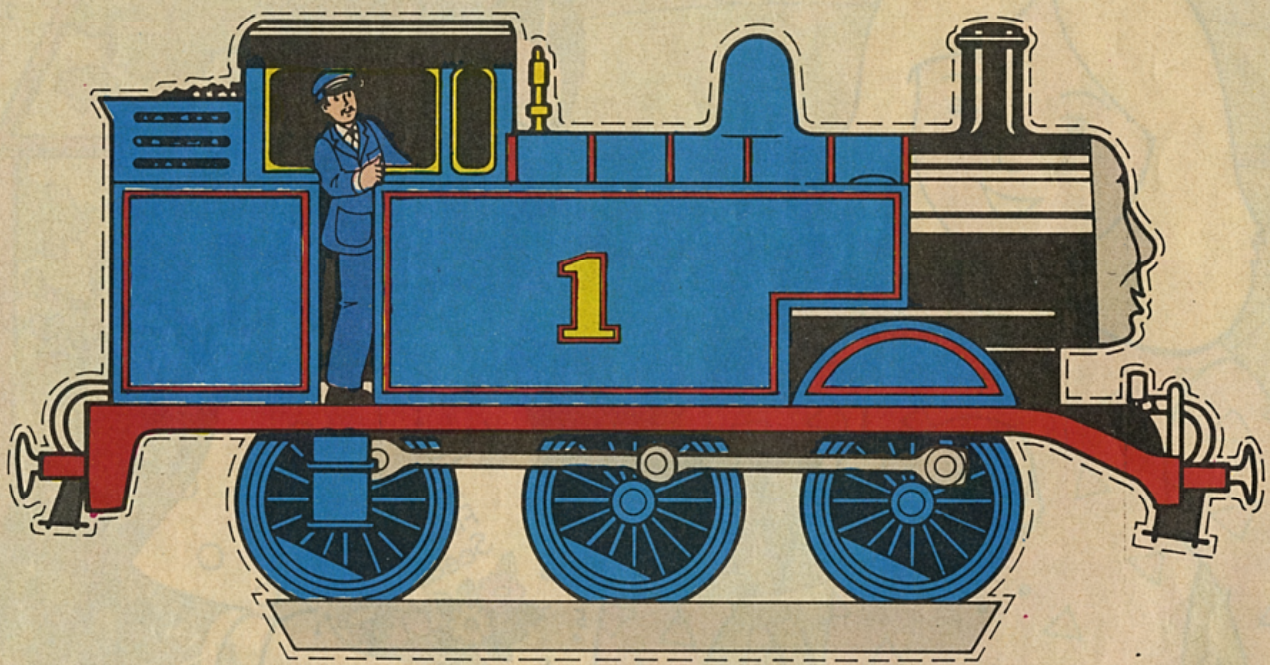
In this picture there are lots of spots and dots. Join the ones with numbers to find out what is what!

POP-UP SCENE!

You can now make your own Thomas scene! You must ask a grown-up to help you! First, cut out both these pages and stick them onto thin card. Now cut out your pop-up figures of the **Fat Controller** and **Thomas**. Look at your background scene. Fold along the solid line and

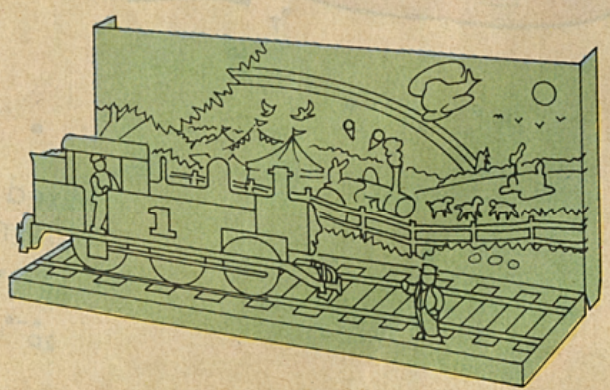
carefully cut through both dotted lines as indicated. You can now slot in both your pop-up figures by pushing the tabs through the holes and taping them to the base of your background scene!



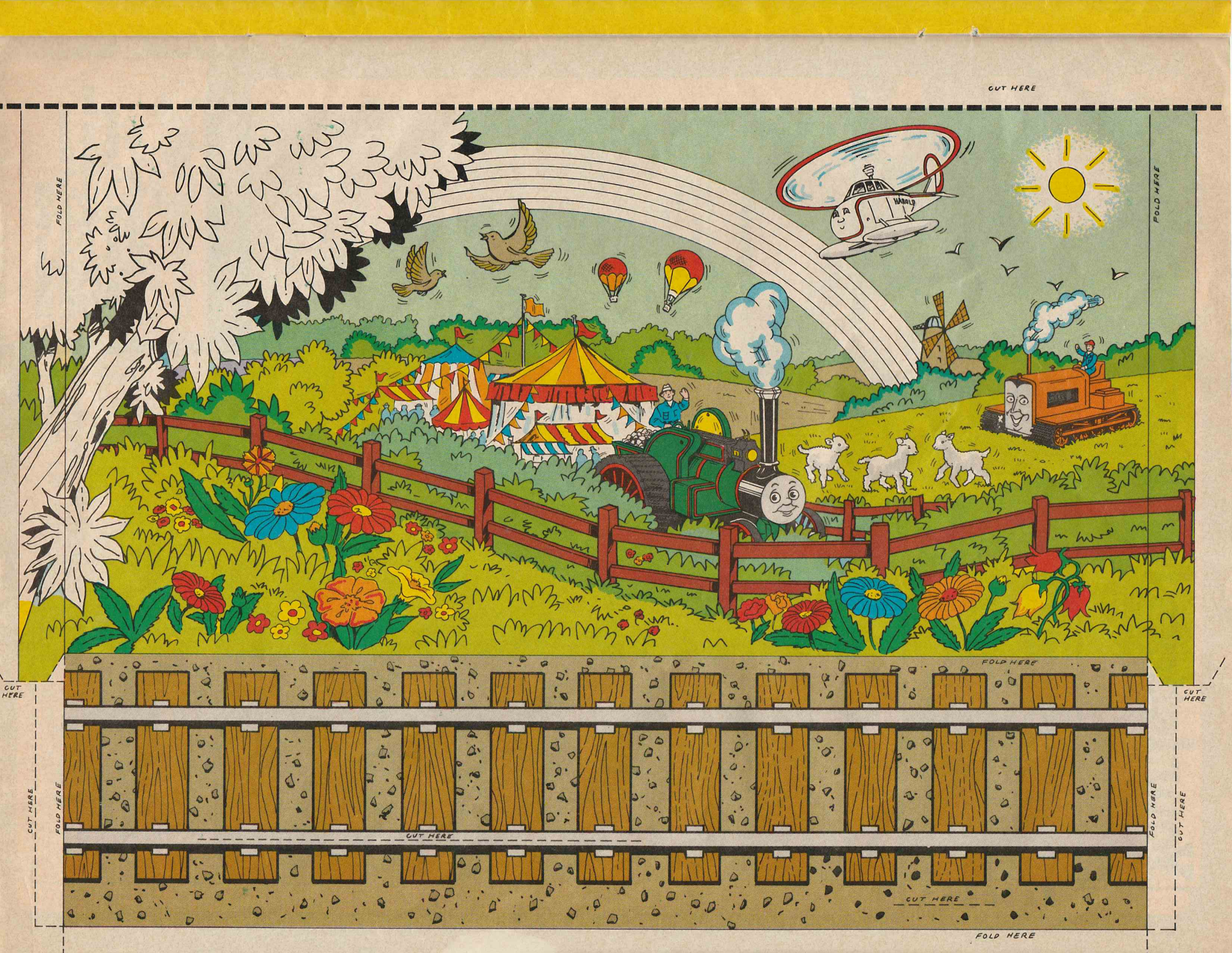


Thomas the Tank Engine

The Fat Controller



As well as making your own Thomas scene, you can also colour your own scene. Choose your brightest crayons so that you can colour the **rainbow** and the big **tree**.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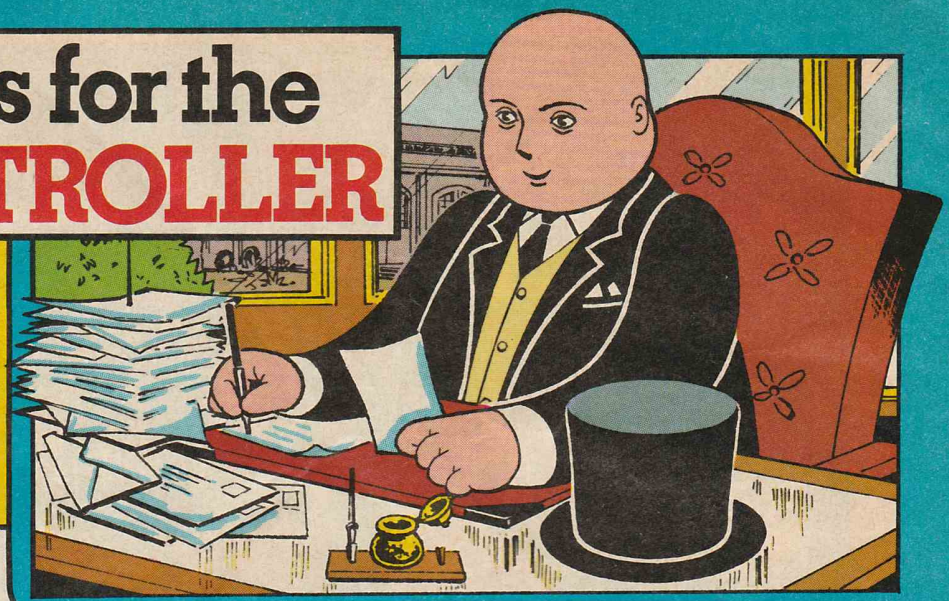
Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
A long time ago, I went on a steam train and it was just like James the Red Engine! James is my favourite engine!

Love from **James Whatling**, aged 6.

It is true! James is a very popular engine but he is sometimes too proud for his own good. He is a very hard worker on my railway even though he only likes to do the most important jobs.

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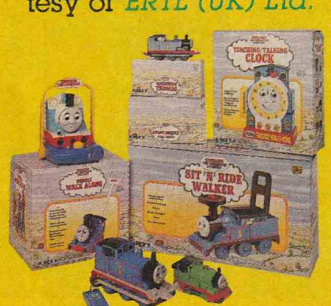
The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



SCHOOL TRIP!

Dear Fat Controller,
My class went on a school trip to the North Woolwich Station Museum near the river Thames. We saw lots of big steam trains and we went to a signal-box to change the signals.

Love from **Robin**, aged 8.

I say! It sounds as though you enjoyed a very interesting day out at the Railway Museum. Thomas, Annie and Clarabel often take the children of Wellsworth school on various school outings to the Main Station on the Island of Sodor!

TROUBLESOME ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
Why is Diesel such a bad engine? Has he ever helped the other engines?

Love from **Jenny**, aged 6.

Diesel is a mischievous engine but I always make him complete his tasks honourably!

BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings go out out...

James Whittick, James Stansfield (22873), Kathryn Victoria Slevin (33942), Mark Crennell, Adam Middleton, Samantha Middleton, Richard Keenan (5469), Aaron Brown (39916), Rebecca Brown (33871) and Thomas Brookwell and a very special mention for Damien Jackson (21122).

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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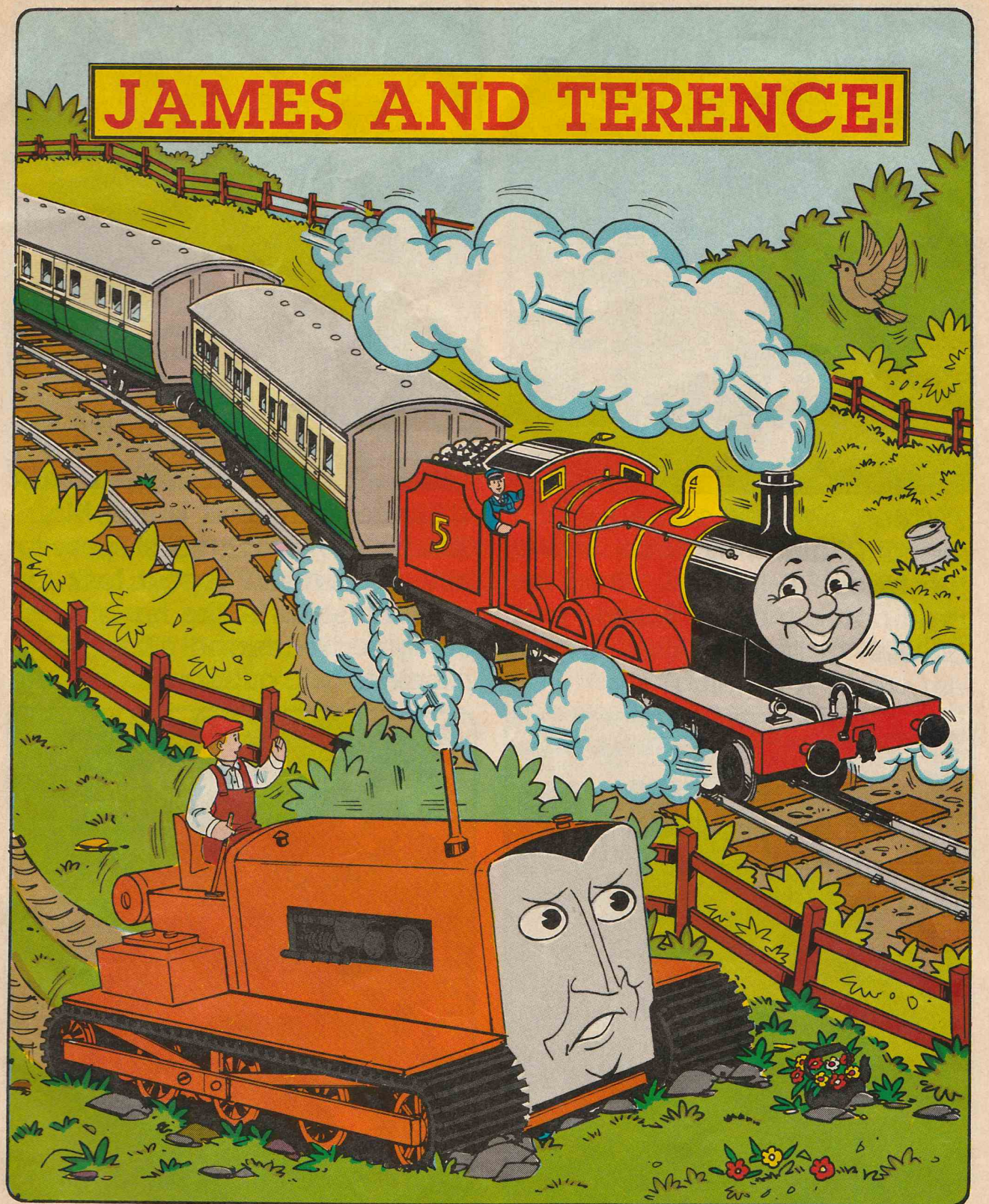
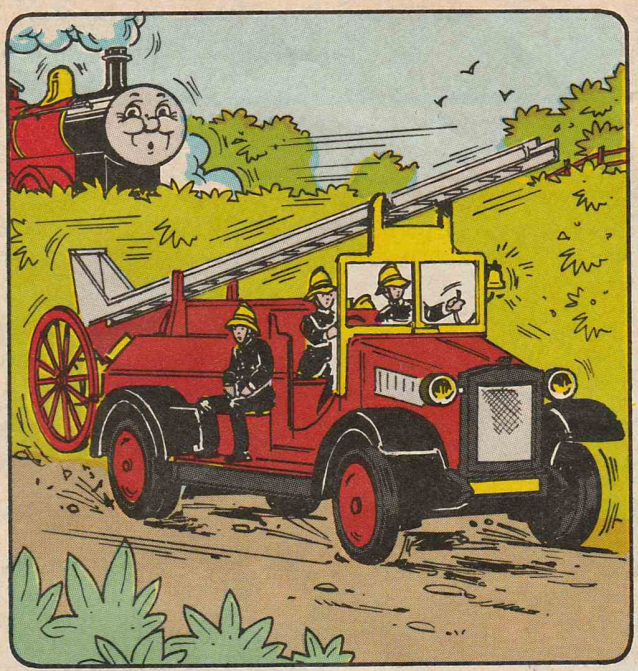
JAMES AND TERENCE!

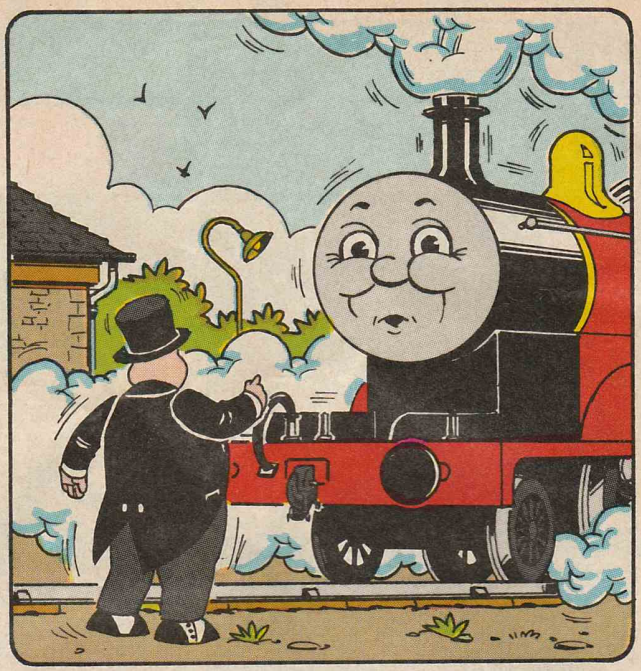


1. One hot day, as James grandly pulled a passenger train, he saw Terence the Tractor working in a field. "A fast engine, like me, is much more useful than a slow tractor!" teased James.

2. Terence was cross. "Cheek! My caterpillar treads may be slower than your wheels, James," he said, "but I do useful work too, like ploughing the earth!" James laughed and raced on.

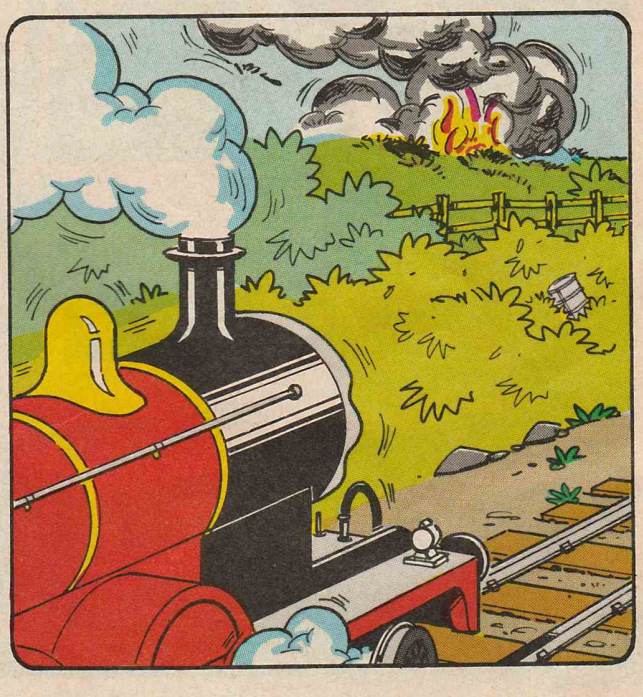


3. Soon he saw a fire-engine speeding along the lane, beside the track. A fireman rang the fire-engine's bell. "Buffers and boilers!" gasped James. "I wonder where it is going?"

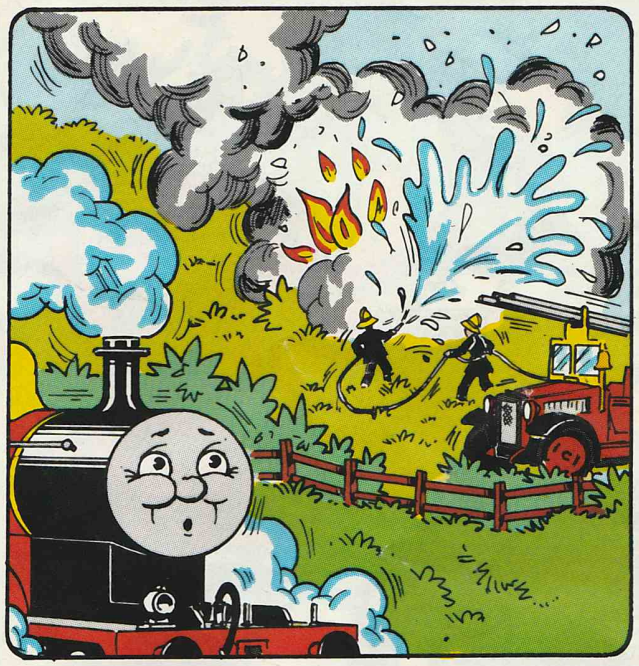


4. James returned to the Main Station. The Fat Controller spoke to him. "I have an urgent task for you," he said. "A fire has started on some heathland! They need people to help put it out."

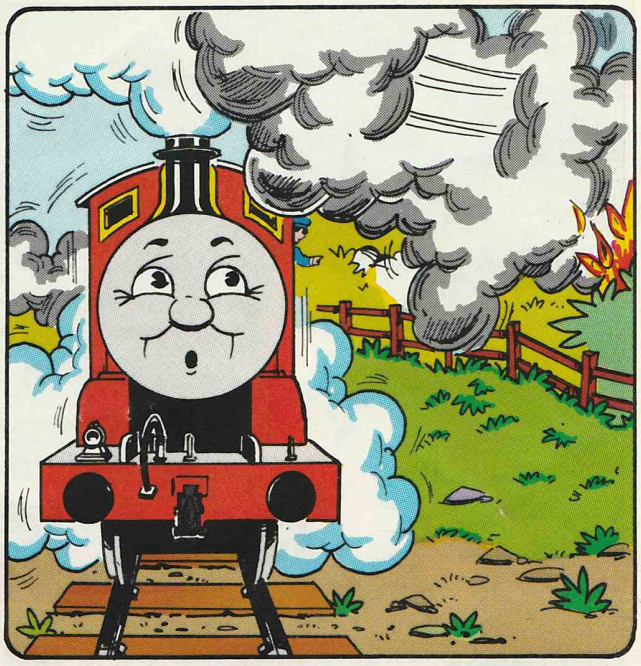
5. "So that's where the fire-engine was heading!" said James's driver. James was to deliver some workmen to help fight the fire. All the men climbed into his carriages.



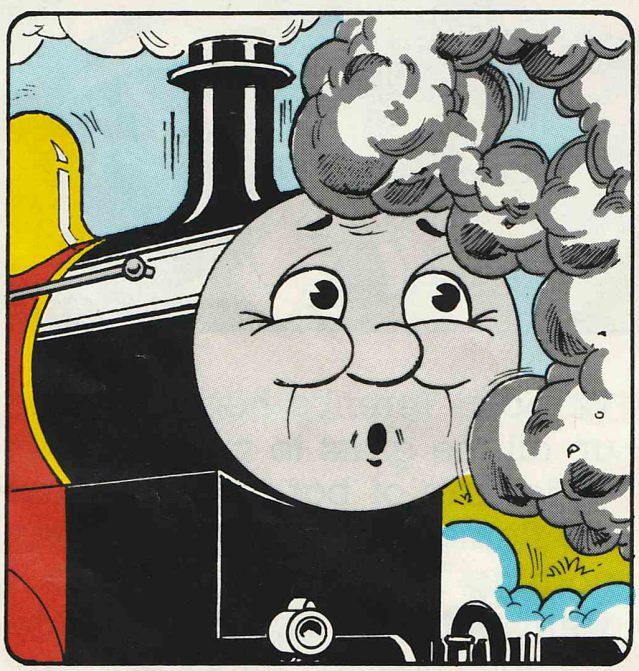
6. James set off urgently for the heath. "The Fat Controller chose me to take the men because this is an emergency and I can get to the fire quickly!" he said importantly.



7. As James neared the heath, he could see thick smoke where the fire raged. The fire-engine was parked and firemen sprayed the flames with a powerful jet of water from their hose.

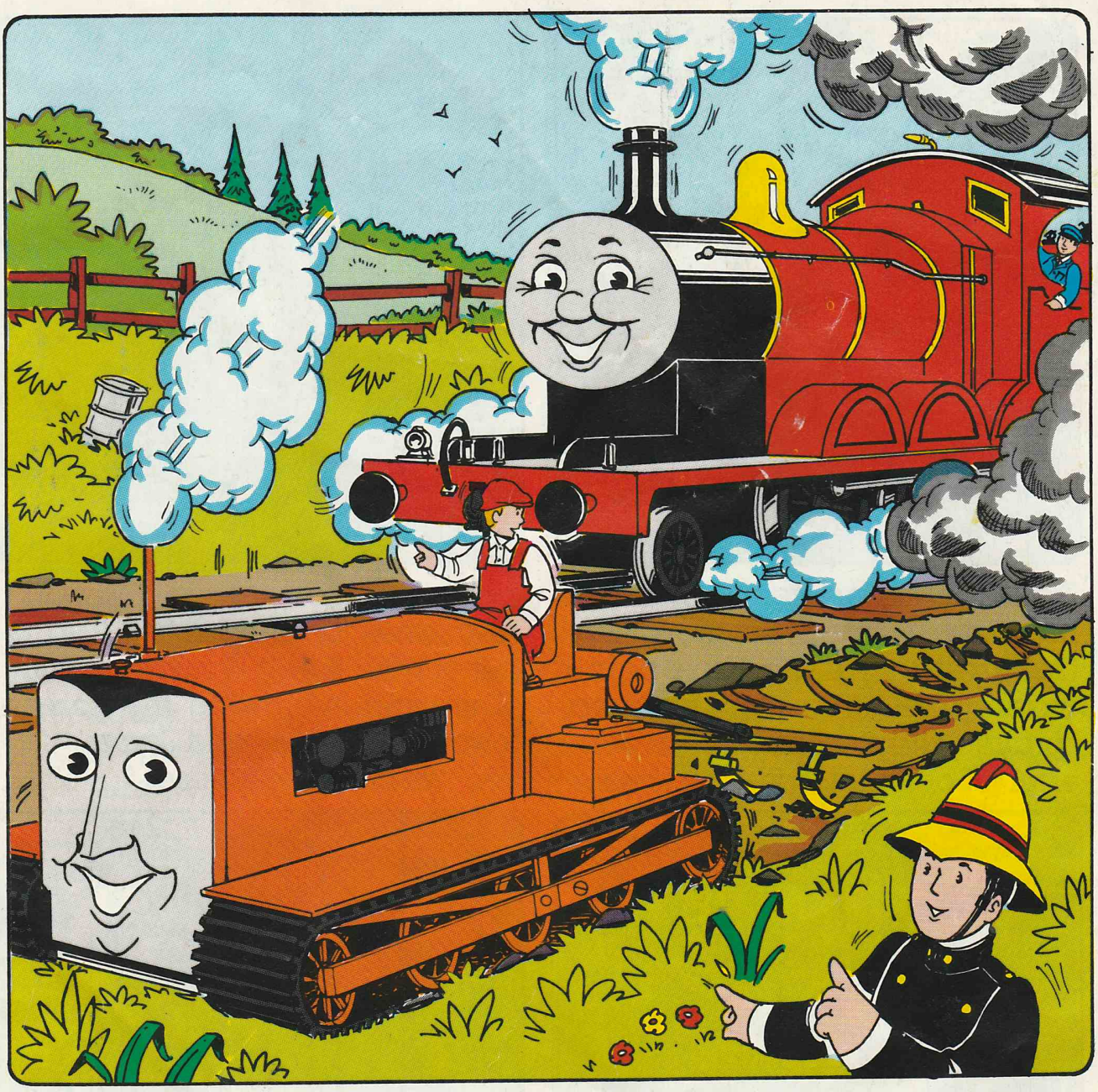


8. When James stopped, the workmen joined the firemen and tried to put out the fire. It wouldn't go out! "The wind is blowing the flames towards the track!" said James's driver. "We must move James."



9. James tried to back up along the line, but he could not move. His brake had jammed on. "Help! I'm trapped!" spluttered James. Smoke from the fire blew into his face and made him cough.

10. James was worried. His driver spoke to the firemen. "Don't worry! We have sent for Terence!" said one. When James heard, he wondered how a slow moving tractor could help.



11. Terence arrived with a plough. He used his caterpillar treads to scramble over the bumpy ground towards some long grass beside the track. "Terence will stop the flames reaching the line!" called his driver. James was puzzled as Terence set to work ploughing a narrow strip of land between the track and the fire. The flames were getting closer and closer.

12. Soon Terence had ploughed up all the grass to make a long, wide strip of bare earth. When the flames reached it, there was nothing left to burn so the fire went out. The helpers and the firemen cheered. James was very relieved. While he waited for the engineers to free his brake, he thanked Terence. "Tractors may be slow," said James, "but they are very clever indeed!"

THE END!

In our next issue: The light engine!